

October 2, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cindy Howarth, RN – Immunization Program Supervisor
Phone: 327-8586
e-mail: chowarth@phd4.state.id.us

2001 Influenza Vaccine Delay Expected

Production of influenza vaccine has been delayed this year and there will only be a limited supply available in October. Central District Health Department will begin offering influenza vaccine to “high-risk” individuals beginning October 22nd. Other individuals, not in the high-risk category, should be able to receive their flu shots in November when additional vaccine will be available.

Health care workers and individuals who are at high risk for serious complications from influenza should receive the first available vaccine.

Individuals at High Risk are:

- Adults 65 years of age or older.
- Persons 6 months of age or older **that have a serious illness** like lung or kidney disease, anemia or other blood disorders, asthma, heart disease, or immune system problems such as HIV or diabetes, or currently undergoing cancer treatment with drug therapy or radiation.
- Children or teenagers taking aspirin daily (they are susceptible to Reye’s syndrome if they become infected with the flu).
- Women 4 to 9 months pregnant.
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities that house persons of any age who may have chronic medical conditions.

Others should wait until November, when vaccine will be more plentiful. October and November are the optimal months for receiving influenza vaccination. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that vaccination continue through December, January, and beyond – as long as vaccine is available and there is influenza activity.

We will keep you informed as more vaccine and information becomes available.

Visit Central District Health Department’s web site (www.cdhd.org) for more information on influenza, updates on vaccine availability, and immunization clinic times.

###